

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please make the following amendments to the claims as noted.

1. (original) A portable flexible carrier for drinking fluid comprising a flexible fluid container entirely encased within an outer separable cover produced from a chemically hardened material which is impermeable to chemical toxins in liquid or gaseous form, biological agents and radioactive particles, a tube connected to an opening of the flexible container and extending beyond the confines of the cover interior through which drinking fluid can be removed by suction from the container, a conduit produced from the chemically hardened material within which the entire length of the tube is encased, an ON/OFF valve in communication with the tube to enable fluid to flow under suction from the carrier interior to the conduit, and means for selectively sealing the cover interior and its contents from the atmosphere.
  
2. (original) A carrier as claimed in claim 1 wherein the chemically hardened material comprises a fabric support covered by a protective complex which acts as a barrier to chemical toxins in liquid or gaseous form, biological agents and radioactive particles.
  
3. (currently amended) A carrier as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ including shoulder straps to enable it to be carried on the back of the user.
  
4. (currently amended) A carrier as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ including a selectively sealable pouch and a sealable flap which is able to overlie the sealed end of the pouch.

*U.S. National Stage of I. A. No. PCT/GB 2004/003212*  
*I. A. Filing Date: 26 July 2004*  
*Attorney Docket No. 124316.00102*

5. (original) A portable flexible carrier as herein described and as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.